

professionals. They take their jobs very seriously and the public respects that. It is no secret that there is a perception problem at home at our airports about the image of the current airport screening workforce. I understand that. But the way to repair that image is by setting better standards, repair that by raising the bar.

Like the U.S. Marshals I spoke about earlier today, the men and women tasked with protecting our Federal buildings and our courtrooms, we respect them. They do a fine job. The Marshal Service is able to do this great job largely because it sets high standards and then contracts out many of the functions of its security in the protection of our courtrooms and courthouses. For example, the Federal Marshal Service hires and manages about 3,300 contracted court security officers, CSOs. They are mostly, as we would expect, former law enforcement personnel who assist with the court security. They get the job done. They do it well. That blend works very well. The Marshal Service stays in charge, they are the professionals, but they contract out a portion of what they do.

There is no question we need to pay people better. We need to train them better, and we need to make this a professionalized workforce, one that gets respect and reflects the importance of the work they do. We need to think about things differently. The first step in doing so involves improving and enhancing security measures at our airports. That means we need better standards; we need better enforcement.

I hope by the time this bill reaches the President, we will have given the executive branch more flexibility. What we really need to do is to say to the executive branch and through our legislation, set higher standards. Then give them the job. Whether that is the Justice Department, the FAA, give the administration the job to get that job done and then hold them accountable.

When you give someone a job, when you say you are going to hold them accountable and when you set high standards but give them the obligation to get the job done, it only makes sense to allow them some flexibility in deciding how best to get that job done. Judge them by the results but give them the flexibility.

I hope we will look at this again, and by the time this bill finally reaches the President of the United States, we will give the President the tools he needs to get the job done for our security.

I yield the floor.

CARNAHAN AMENDMENT NO. 1855

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about fiscal responsibility. Before I begin, I take a moment to discuss the Carnahan amendment to the aviation security bill. First, I congratulate Senator McCain

and Senator HOLLINGS for the passage of the airport security bill. The passage of that bill is long overdue. It is needed to secure our airports and aviation and to build confidence in the American public.

One of the things that has gone unmentioned is most economists agree one of the best things we can do to get the economy off the ground is to get our airlines into the air.

My constituents in Ohio have a significant stake in this bill because Ohio has a significant aviation presence. In fact, with no disrespect to my good friends from North Carolina, Ohio is the birth place of aviation since the Wright brothers hailed from Dayton and honed their skills in Ohio. They just happened to test out the "flyer" at Kitty Hawk.

Today, a number of airlines have hubs in Ohio: Continental in Cleveland, Delta in Cincinnati, America West has a big presence in Columbus.

Thousands of men and women working in the airline industry are hurting. I greatly appreciate the effort of my colleague from Missouri to aid them. There is no question the aviation sector has suffered particularly hard from this economic downturn and was hit right in the eye with the terrorist attack on September 11. However, as my colleagues well know, there are tens of thousands around the country who have lost their jobs in the past few months. There are tens of thousands more who are facing tough times, particularly in manufacturing States such as Ohio. There are thousands of Ohioans who lost their jobs in the steel mills, in the polymer industry, and in the auto plants. According to the most recent statistics from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, 250,000 Ohioans today are unemployed. This figure is before September 11. Now, undoubtedly that number is larger. The vast majority of these workers would not benefit from the provisions of the Carnahan amendment.

It is very important that whatever assistance Congress renders to the workers of this Nation, it is not just restricted to a set of workers.

I would have offered an amendment to the airport security bill, but I felt it would delay the bill and I also felt it would be more properly a part of the economic stimulus package. I intend to offer an amendment to that package when it comes before the Senate. I hope that happens quite soon.

ALTERED FISCAL PRIORITIES

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, discussions of the budget that once dominated the news headlines have been eclipsed since the world was forever changed by the horrendous events of September 11, and no one knows more about those events than the Presiding Officer.

Perhaps one of the most significant changes resulting from the terrorist attacks is how significantly our fiscal

priorities have been altered. Almost instantly the debate shifted from how to protect the Social Security surplus to how we should spend it to pay for counterterrorism and homeland defense efforts and stimulate the economy.

By necessity, this dramatic change in our fiscal situation calls for Congress to sort out our top priorities between those that existed before September 11 and which continue to demand our attention and our new priorities, defending our homeland, fighting terrorism, and boosting the economy. We will commit the resources that are needed to succeed in this challenge and we will obtain those resources in whatever way is necessary.

Some of my colleagues will remember that prior to the events of September 11 I was working closely with the administration and several of my colleagues on a bill designed to protect the Social Security surplus, control spending, and ensure debt reduction. That legislation had two exceptions: recession and war. If it had been in place, both of these exceptions would apply.

Having said that, I emphatically say to my colleagues that the need for fiscal discipline is greater now than ever before. It must not be a casualty of September 11. We still need to prioritize our spending and we still need to make hard choices. As I said, the events of September 11 changed everything, and they have also changed our fiscal outlook for years to come.

Over the past few fiscal years, sustained by peace, prosperity, and assuredness, our Nation has had record budget surpluses. Unfortunately, the existence of surpluses has had an undesirable effect. Congress has expanded the Government, created new programs, and dramatically increased spending in others. The speed at which the fiscal fortunes of the Federal Government have shifted is astounding. Almost 8 months ago, CBO projected we would run an on-budget surplus for fiscal year 2001 of \$125 billion, as well as a \$156 billion Social Security surplus—a total of \$281 billion that was supposed to be used for debt reduction.

However, on September 26, the CBO released its monthly budget review and revealed a much different story. According to the CBO, when all is said and done the total unified budget surplus in fiscal year 2001 will be \$121 billion, a change of \$160 billion from the January estimate. This means Congress used \$40 billion of the Social Security surplus to fund the general Government activities.

The news for fiscal year 2002 is equally sobering. Last week the Senate Budget Committee, working in a bipartisan manner, released new figures on the budget outlook for fiscal year 2002 through fiscal year 2011. The committee predicts that we are on track to spend the entire Social Security surplus in the 2002 fiscal year, and most or part of the Social Security surplus in the following year.

We see that on this chart. We show a \$52 billion surplus, but the fact is, we are truly in deficit because we will be using \$122 billion of Social Security in 2002, \$125 billion in 2003, and so forth. So we are going to be using the Social Security surplus, according to this chart, all the way out to the year 2006.

I remind my colleagues the projected \$52 billion unified surplus is a gross exaggeration of the possible surplus this year because we have pledged we are going to use \$60 to \$75 billion to stimulate the economy, which means we are going to wipe out this \$52 billion surplus in 2002. In fact, we are going to have to borrow the money from the public to pay for the things we want to do.

I would like to remind my colleagues the bleak budget outlook I described goes way out into future years. The Senate Budget Committee projected we will spend significant portions of Social Security surpluses, as I mentioned, in 2003 to 2006.

I further remind my colleagues that these figures on this chart, as bad as they are, do not tell the whole story. These we are showing are based on a cost-of-living increase in spending based on inflation. Remember Congress spent 14.5 percent more in fiscal 2001 on nondefense discretionary spending than they did in fiscal year 2000. We should have no illusions that Congress is going to spend at the rate of inflation. I don't know of any time that Congress has spent money at the rate of inflation. As to these numbers on this chart, you might as well forget them. They are gone because the projections are based on inflationary increases and we know that is not going to be the case.

Our current crisis should not be used as an excuse to run up the tab for programs and projects not related to the war on terrorism or stimulating our economy. Now more than ever before we have to prioritize our funding and make tough choices. Do our spending choices put the safety of American lives at home and abroad front and center? Will they truly boost the economy? These are the questions that should be applied to every dollar Congress spends. Our current fiscal position does not allow for any unnecessary spending. Domestic needs must be reprioritized. Those of us who have been concerned about fiscal responsibility have to recommit ourselves to fiscal discipline. We have to make the tough choices to keep in check the urge to spend, keeping in mind we are spending the Nation's Social Security money with every additional dollar that goes out the door. Once it has gone out the door, we are then going to borrow that money from the public.

I am concerned that some proposals being considered in this Senate are inappropriate, given the long-term budget pressures we face. You will be hearing from me and hopefully many others about some of those proposals. If the stimulus package we put in place re-

sults in chronic budget deficits, it is going to drive up interest rates. And make no mistake about it, the financial markets are closely watching what we do. If they see Congress taking actions that will steer the Federal Government towards persistent deficits, they will drive interest rates higher. Higher interest rates will have exactly the opposite effect on the economy from what we want. They would put a brake on the economy by raising consumers' interest payments and discouraging economic activity.

Remember, low interest rates are important to the economy. In fact, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has been quite clear about this as he has highlighted this to many of us.

I think this is very important. This is not merely an academic exercise. The recent rise in long-term interest rates is attributed to the deteriorating budget condition of the Federal Government in the past few weeks. As my colleagues know, Congress will consider a true stimulus package in the near future. Helping America's workers, all workers, should be and will be a part of that package and should be our No. 1 priority.

The stimulus package can only be so big. So it is critical that we touch as many Americans as possible. All of them should participate in that economic stimulus package. That same message applies to the money we allocate to fight terrorism at home and abroad. We need to prioritize and we need to get the biggest bang for our buck, literally and figuratively.

We in this body must never lose sight that the day of reckoning with the baby boomer retirement has not been put off by our current crisis. Like it or not, the baby boomers will begin to retire in about 10 years, and if we fail to act, we will put an unacceptable burden on our children and grandchildren. We face an important challenge in preparing for that day. Our goal should be to fund our war on terrorism at home and abroad, respond to the needs of the victims of the terrorist attack in New York and here in Washington, get our economy going, and as soon as possible end deficit spending. We owe it to our children and grandchildren.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation under the unanimous consent request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is nothing pending before the Senate.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield to the Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator yielding.

On behalf of Senator DASCHLE, I now ask that the Senate consider S. 1510.

UNITING AND STRENGTHENING AMERICA ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1510) to deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, to enhance law enforcement investigatory tools, and for other purposes.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the time agreement that we are now operating under?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 4 hours equally divided. In addition, there are 40 minutes on each of the four amendments to be offered by the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

I cannot help but think in looking at our distinguished Presiding Officer, the senior Senator from New York, how much his State has suffered. Both he and his distinguished colleague, Senator CLINTON, have spoken so eloquently, both on the floor and elsewhere, about that. I know in my own private conversations with the distinguished Presiding Officer I felt the depth of his grief and emotion for a city that he obviously and unabashedly loves. His references to New York City over the years are almost similar to the kind of comments I make about Vermont. But I do note the accent is somewhat different. I assume it is because of the Vermont accent.

But I think the Senators from New York, and the Senators from New Jersey and Connecticut have especially spoken of the effect on families and loved ones in the New York City area. People who work there are from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. I know how sad they feel.

I think of the people who died in Pennsylvania in an airplane that was probably planning to strike the very building we are in—this symbol of democracy. Only with a great loss of life did it not happen. But there would be an enormous disruption in our Government. The next day, the view that most people around the world have—our symbol of democracy—would be gone.

I think of the brave men and women who died, as the President and others have said, doing their duty at the Pentagon, and the hundreds—even thousands—of children who went to school happily in the morning and came home to find that they were orphans.

It was a terrible, terrible day.

I think back to what happened in Oklahoma City in 1995 and the actions we took then. We are moving, of course, much faster now than we did at that time, and I hope perhaps with more care on legislation.

We have before us the USA Act of 2001. I worked with Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Congressman CONYERS